

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164475
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GSCOTT
APPROVED BY P:MR. HABIB
EUR:JAARMITAGE
PM/SAS:RSMITH
INR:LGSARRIS
AF :RMMOOSE
S/S-O: TGMARTIN
EA/RA:RHOBBS
,EA/RA:RHOBBS

-----058539 142208Z /61

P 142140Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164475

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF M-47 TANKS IN ETHIOPIA

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A NUMBER (AS MANY AS 70) M-47
TANKS HAVE SHOWN UP IN ETHIOPIA. OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
CONCERNING MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR SALES REQUIRE THAT THE
US GIVE PRIOR CONSENT TO ANY TRANSFERS OF US MILITARY
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EQUIPMENT PROVIDED UNDER SUCH AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE GIVEN
NO CONSENT TO ANY TRANSFER OF M-47'S TO ETHIOPIA AND BY
LAW, THIS VIOLATION WILL HAVE TO BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS.
WE WILL INFORM RELEVANT COMMITTEE HEADS ON A CLASSIFIED
BASIS AND HOPE THAT TRANSFER DOES NOT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWL-
EDGE.

2. NO M-47 TANKS WERE EVER PROVIDED ETHIOPIA BY US. M-47 IS A KOREAN WAR VINTAGE PATTON TANK, GASOLINE RATHER THAN DIESEL POWERED, AND WITH RANGE BETWEEN ONE-HALF AND ONE-THIRD THAT OF MORE MODERN TANKS. KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE U.S. TANKS COULD CONFUSE THE SOMALIS, SUDANESE, SAUDIS AND ERITREANS ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS. BELIEF THAT WE HAVE APPROVED THIS TRANSFER COULD ALSO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES POSSESSING US ARMS TO ASSUME INCORRECTLY THAT AGREEMENT TO SUCH TRANSFERS IS

LIGHTLY GIVEN OR THAT REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR US CONSENT CAN BE IGNORED WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.

3. IF HOST GOVERNMENT SHOULD RAISE QUESTION OF PRESENCE OF M-47'S IN ETHIOPIA, YOU MAY CONFIRM FACT AND SAY THAT SHIPMENTS WERE MADE WITHOUT OUR CONSENT. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE A BREACH OF OUR UNDERSTANDING WE HAVE WITH ALL RECIPIENTS OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR SALES, THAT MATTER IS OF CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN USG, AND THAT WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO SEE THAT THERE IS NO REPETITION OF THIS INCIDENT.

4. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE PROBING OR SPECULATION REGARDING SOURCE OF TANKS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, GROUND VEHICLES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GSCOTT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Subject: PRESENCE OF M-47 TANKS IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: MARR, MASS, YO, ET, US
To: MOGADISCIO KHARTOUM MULTIPLE
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